



REMARKS

In response to the Restriction/Election Requirement Office Action ("Office Action") mailed July 5, 2002, in the above-referenced application ("Application"), Applicants hereby elect Group I (claims 1-6, and 14) as set forth in paragraph two of the Office Action. 

Additionally, Applicants have added new claims 15-18. New claims 15-18 are Linking Claims under MPEP § 809.03 because they are means claims linking the process of the method claims of Group I to the apparatus claims of Group II.

Applicants request that the Examiner allow Applicants to retain the claims of Group II (claims 7-13) so that the Examiner can examine the non-elected claims once the linking claims have been allowed. MPEP § 809.04. 

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 13-2491 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

While it is believed that the foregoing election places the Application in condition for examination, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Date: 8/1/02

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Respectfully submitted,

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